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ABSTRACT

Beginning in Spring 1998, Virginia students participated in the Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments designed to test student knowledge of the content and skills specified in the state's standards. This document contains questions that approximately 83,000 studerts in grade 3 were required to answer as part of the SOL assessments. These questions are representative of the SOL tests and are provided to demonstrate the format of the test questions. Sample items are presented from the English tests for reading and writing, the mathematics test, the history and social science test, and the science test. A page with correct test answers is included. (SLD)

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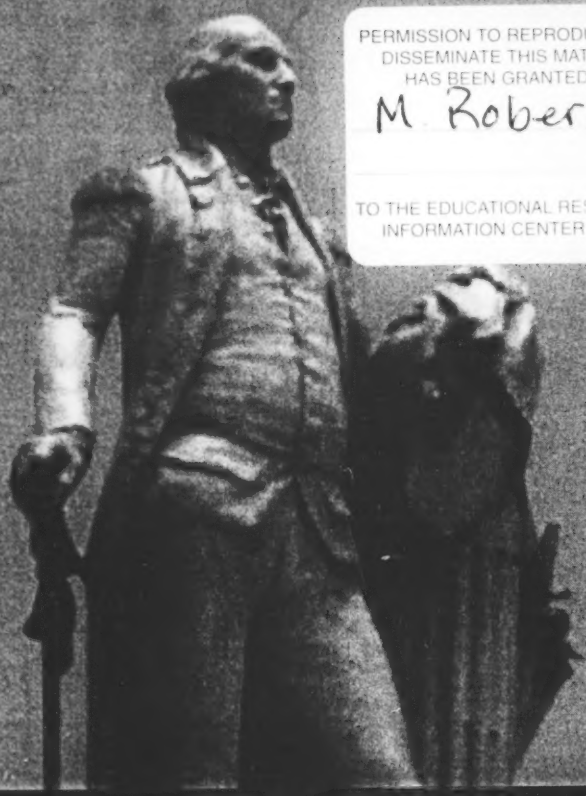

GRADE • GRADE • GRADE

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RELEASED ITEMS

1998

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Virginia

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Virginia
Standards of Learning Assessments

GRADE THREE

Introducing the VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

Grade 3 Assessment

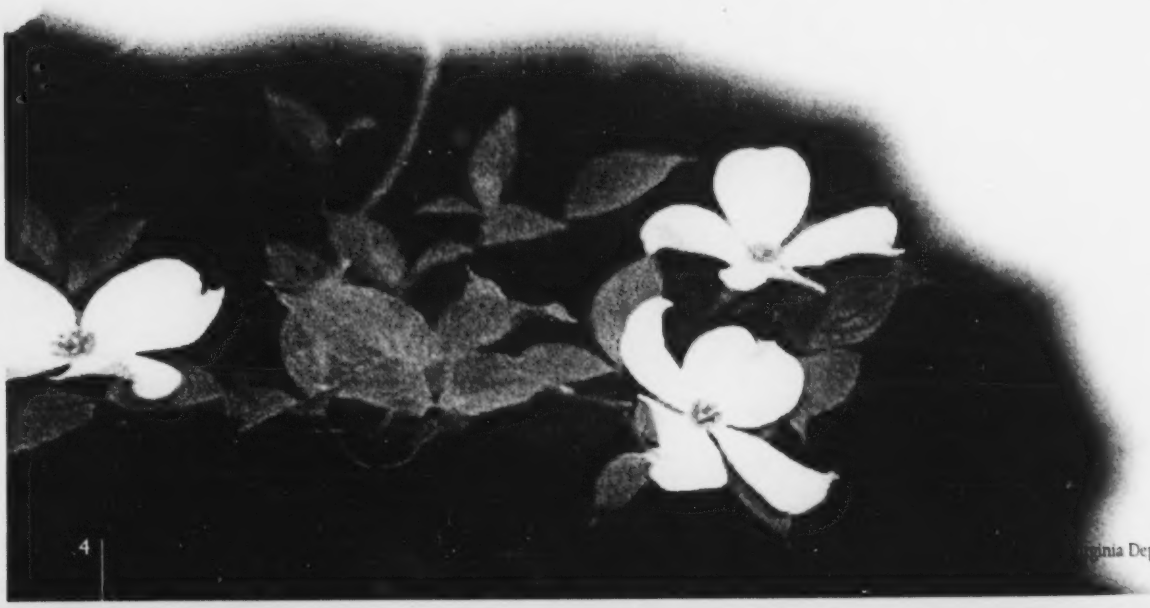
Our goal in Virginia is to raise student achievement through accountability for results so that *all* our schoolchildren, not just a lucky few, will be prepared to compete successfully in the global economy of the 21st century. With a desire to accomplish this goal, more than 5,000 qualified teachers, parents, business professionals, and others worked together to develop the nationally acclaimed Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL). Designed to provide Virginia students with a content-rich, rigorous academic foundation, these standards were adopted by the Board of Education in 1995.

Beginning in the Spring of 1998, students participated in the *Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments*. These assessments were designed to test student knowledge of the content information and skills specified in the Virginia Standards. Student proficiency in the academic areas of English, Mathematics, History and Social Science, Science, and Computer/Technology was and continues to be evaluated by these tests.

The SOL Assessments enable parents, teachers, and students to evaluate student knowledge and better prepare them for success.

Sample items for the grade 3 tests

On the following pages you will find questions that approximately 83,000 students in grade 3 were asked to answer as part of the Spring 1998 *Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments*. These questions are representative of the content and skills included in the Virginia SOL tests and are provided to help you understand the format of the test questions.



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The Spring 1998 SOL tests marked the first statewide administration of these questions and others like them in the grade 3 content areas: English: Reading and Writing, Mathematics, History and Social Science, and Science.

Each question on an SOL test was assigned to a Reporting Category. A Reporting Category addresses related content or skills in the Standards of Learning. For example, a Reporting Category for the grade 3 Mathematics test is Computation and Estimation. The standards in this Reporting Category address computation using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and/or division. Students also are asked to estimate the answer to a problem. Each test question in this booklet is identified with its Reporting Category. There are some Reporting Categories for which test questions have not yet been released.

A key for the correct answers to questions is on page 20 of this document.

All questions are multiple-choice. Every test question used on an SOL test is:

- reviewed and approved by a committee of Virginia teachers
- field tested (or tried out) with Virginia students
- reviewed again by Virginia teachers
- reviewed once again after the tests are put together.

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GRADE THREE

ENGLISH TEST: *Reading*

At grade 3 only, the English test consists of two sections: Reading and Writing. The questions on the grade 3 English test cover the English Standards of Learning for kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3.

On the Reading section of the grade 3 English test, students read a small number of reading selections and answer multiple-choice questions about these selections. The test includes a variety of types of reading, such as fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

In the selection shown here, paragraphs are numbered for students' reference.

RELEASED ▼ SELECTION

Elizabeth Blackwell: First Woman Doctor

1 Waves crashed against the crowded ship. Young Elizabeth Blackwell was on board the *Cosmo* with her family as it crossed from England to America in 1832. The trip was long and unpleasant. It took almost two months. Many of the people on board the ship became ill. Elizabeth saw how sick the people were. She wished there was a way she could help them. Looking at all the sick people on the boat, Elizabeth suddenly knew that she wanted to be a doctor when she grew up.

2 Elizabeth knew it would not be easy. There were no women doctors, and many people were against allowing women to become doctors. Elizabeth had to study to be a doctor, but no college wanted to accept a woman as a student. College after college turned her down. Some of her friends thought she should pretend to be a man, but Elizabeth disagreed.

3 At last a college in New York agreed to let her enroll as a student. Elizabeth's classmates were not used to having a girl study with them. Soon, however, they all saw how smart she was. In 1849, Elizabeth graduated from college with high honors. Finally, she was a doctor!

4 Elizabeth went on to achieve many more things. She opened a doctor's office where she helped many sick women and children. She wrote books to teach people how to stay healthy. She even opened a school for other women who wanted to become doctors. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor, was a brave example for many young women.

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ENGLISH TEST: *Reading – continued*

GRADE THREE

The questions accompanying the reading selection shown on page 6 are in the following Reporting Categories:

- Use Word Analysis Strategies (phonetic/structural) *(questions 1 and 2)*
- Understand a Variety of Printed Materials/Resource Materials *(questions 3 and 4)*
- Understand Elements of Literature *(questions 5 and 6)*

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

1 Read this sentence from the article.

> **"The trip was long and unpleasant."**

In which word does un mean the same as in unpleasant?

A understood
B uniform
C unwanted
D unit

2 What does the word achieve mean in paragraph 4 of the article?

F Ask
G Copy
H Use
J Do

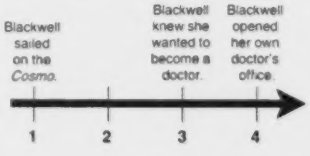
3 More information could be found about Elizabeth Blackwell in —

A a dictionary
B an atlas
C a thesaurus
D an encyclopedia

4 It was hard for Elizabeth Blackwell to become a doctor because she —

F went to school in New York
G was a woman
H was from England
J had to study

5 Look at this time line.



What belongs on line 2 of the time line?

A Blackwell saw many sick people on the ship.
B Blackwell's friends told her to pretend to be a man.
C Blackwell had trouble getting into college.
D Blackwell graduated at the top of her class.

6 You can tell this article is a biography because it is —

F about the writer's own life
G a short story that teaches a lesson about life
H about someone's life written by someone else
J a funny story that is unbelievable

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GRADE THREE

ENGLISH TEST:

Writing

The questions included in the Writing subtest of the grade 3 English test are designed to mirror the process students follow as they do their own writing. Students are presented with a writing task that is followed by a test question like Question 1, which address activities students might do as they prepare to write.

This is followed by a rough draft of a response to the writing task written by a fictional student. The rough draft is divided into two sections. The first section contains errors such as an incorrectly written sentence or two sentences that need to be combined. Test items that follow this section require the students to correct these errors by choosing the correct revision from the choices provided. The second section of the rough draft includes errors in grammar, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Items following this section refer to underlined words in the rough draft and require the student to choose the answer that includes correct grammar and mechanics. In some cases the underlined word(s) will include no error, and the correct answer is "as it is."

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GRADE THREE

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ENGLISH TEST: *Writing – continued*

The questions from the Spring 1998 test are in these Reporting Categories:

- Plan, Compose, and Revise Paragraphs, Stories, Letters, and Reports *(questions 1, 2, 3, and 4)*
- Edit for Grammar, Capitalization, Punctuation, and Spelling *(questions 5 and 6)*

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

My Feathered Friend

Keisha's teacher has asked each student to write a story about a family pet. Keisha wants to write about her parakeet, Peeper.

Keisha made this list to help her write her story about Peeper. Use it to answer question 1.

1. I finished kindergarten.
2. I received a baby parakeet as a gift from my parents.
3. It peeped, so I named it Peeper.
4. Boy parakeets talk better, but you can't tell whether a baby is a boy or girl.
5. I decided to teach Peeper how to talk, just in case.
6. For weeks I said "Peeper is a pretty bird" over and over.
7. One day Peeper said, "Peeper is a pretty bird."

1 This list will help Keisha to —

A take care of her parakeet
B plan her pet story
C write a thank-you letter
D decide which pet to write about

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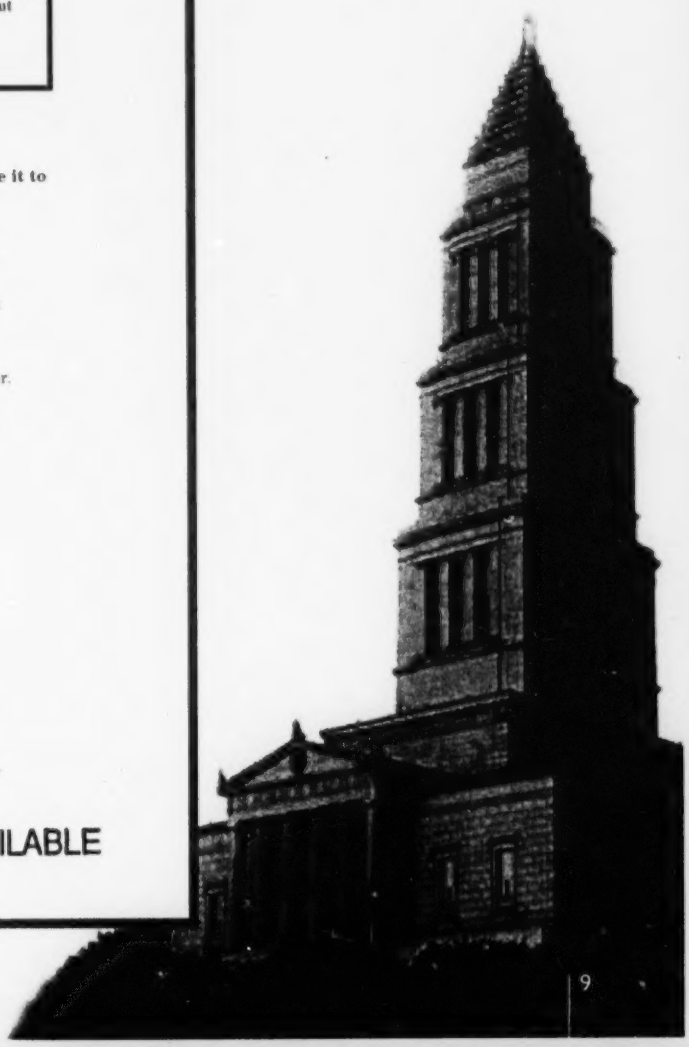

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ENGLISH TEST: *Writing* – *continued*

GRADE THREE

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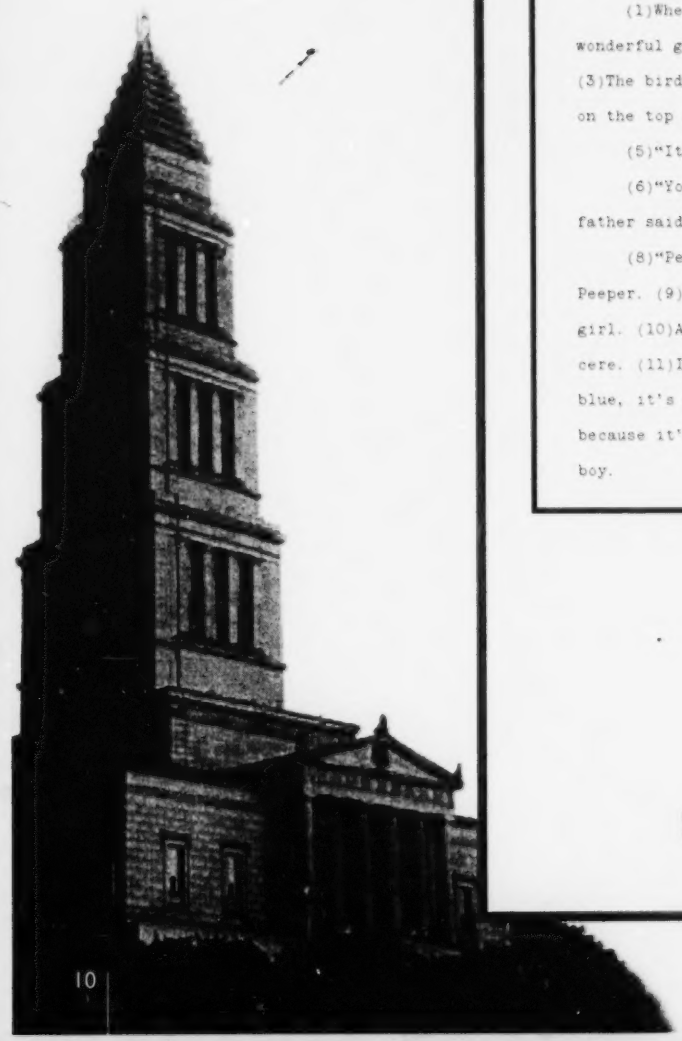

RELEASED ▼ SELECTION

Here is the first part of Keisha's rough draft. Use it to answer questions 2–4.

(1)When I finished kindergarten, on that day I received a wonderful gift. (2)It was a small bird with blue feathers. (3)The bird was in a cage, and there was a huge yellow bow tied on the top of it. (4)Three years ago.

(5)"It's a baby parakeet, Keisha," said my mother.

(6)"You can name it whatever you want." (7)That's what my father said then.

(8)"Peep, peep," said the parakeet, so I decided to name it Peeper. (9)At first I didn't know whether Peeper was a boy or a girl. (10)A parakeet's "nose," just above the beak, is called a cere. (11)If it's brown, the parakeet is a girl. (12)If it's blue, it's a boy. (13)I was hoping the cere would turn blue, because it's easier to teach a parakeet how to talk if it's a boy.

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ENGLISH TEST: *Writing* – *continued*

Questions 2, 3, and 4 are in the Reporting Category of Plan, Compose, and Revise Paragraphs, Stories, Letters, and Reports.

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

2 How should sentence 1 be written?

F I finished kindergarten, I received a wonderful gift.
G When I finished kindergarten, that day I received a wonderful gift.
H On the day I finished kindergarten, I received a wonderful gift.
J I finished kindergarten when I received a wonderful gift on that day.

3 How can sentences 6 and 7 best be joined?

A Then my father, he said, "You can name it whatever you want."
B "You can name it whatever you want," that's what my father said then.
C Said my father then, "You can name it whatever you want."
D Then my father said, "You can name it whatever you want."

4 Which of these is not a complete sentence?

F 3
G 4
H 5
J 11

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GRADE THREE

ENGLISH TEST: *Writing* – *continued*

Questions 5 and 6 are in the Reporting Category of Edit for Grammar, Capitalization, Punctuation, and Spelling.

RELEASED ITEMS

Read this next section of Keisha's rough draft and answer questions 5 and 6. This section has groups of underlined words. The questions ask about these groups of underlined words.

(14)I wanted to give Peeper some talking lessons, just in case, while I were waiting to find out. (15)My father told me how to train Peeper. (16)"Choose one short sentence," he said. (17)"Say it to Peeper over and over, every chance you get." (18)I decided to teach Peeper how to say, "Peeper is a pretty bird." (19)I said it twenty times a day.

(20)One morning, I lifted the cover from Peepers cage. (21)I looked at his face and noticed that his cere was bright blue.

(22)"Peeper is a pretty bird!" he said.

5 In sentence 14, while I were waiting should be written —

A while I have been waiting
B while I am waiting
C while I was waiting
D as it is

6 In sentence 20, Peepers cage. should be written —

F Peeper's cage.
G Peeper'es cage.
H Peepers' cage.
J as it is

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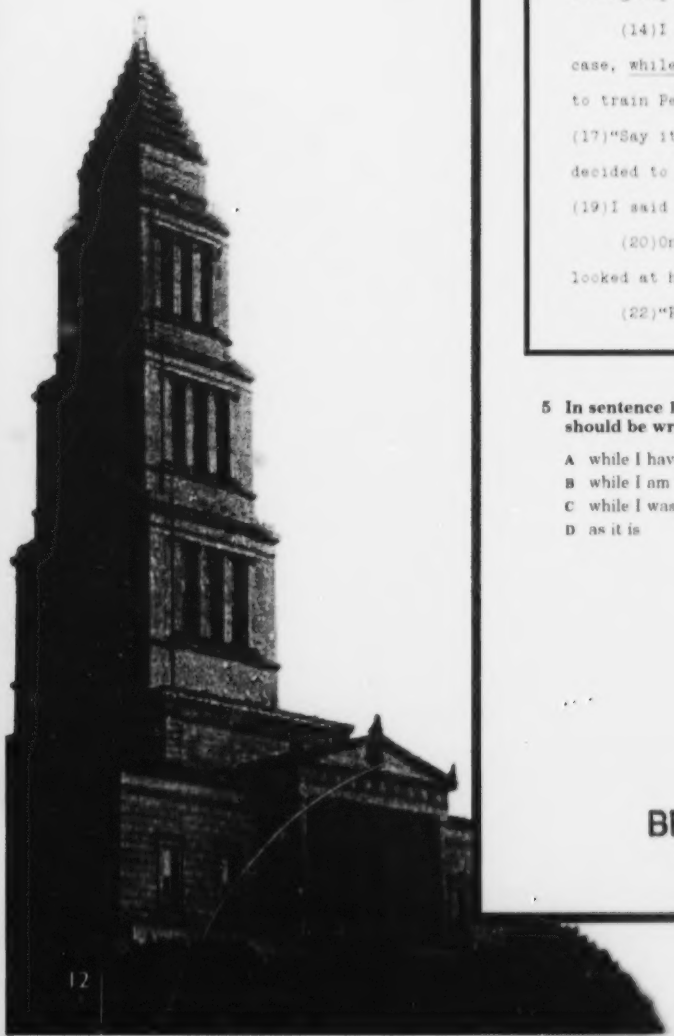

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MATHEMATICS TEST

Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments

GRADE THREE

The questions on the grade 3 *Mathematics* test address the knowledge and skills contained in the Mathematics Standards of Learning for kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3. As much as possible, "real-life" situations, as in Question 2, are used. Students are permitted to use rulers and scratch paper on the test.

The questions from the Spring 1998 test that are shown below and on the next page are in these Reporting Categories:

- Number and Number Sense *(questions 1, 2, and 3)*
- Measurement and Geometry *(questions 4, 5, and 6)*
- Probability and Statistics *(question 7)*
- Patterns, Functions, and Algebra *(question 8)*

RELEASED ITEMS

1 Mr. Jones has a farm that covers 778 acres. What is 778 rounded to the nearest ten?

A 800
B 780
C 770
D 700

2 If Sue subtracts four from her age, the result is nine. What is Sue's age?

F 15
G 13
H 9
J 5

3 Howard arranged four cards to make this number.

5	6	3	2

Which of these shows the cards arranged to make a number greater than Howard's number?

A | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 |

B | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

C | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

D | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 |

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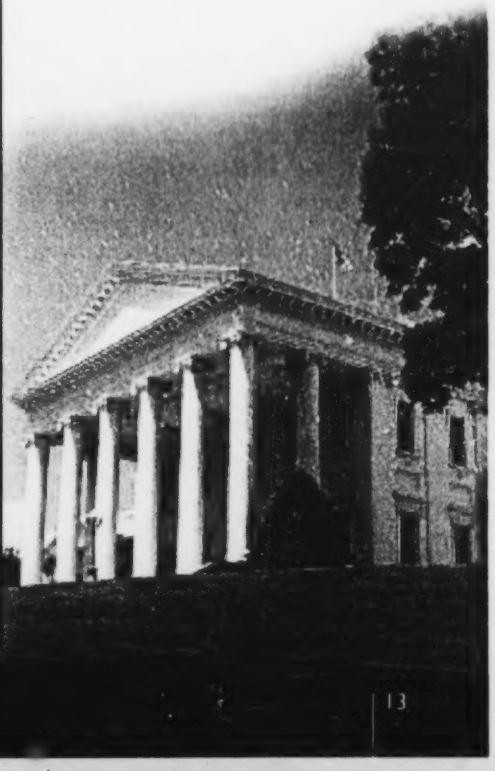

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MATHEMATICS TEST– *continued*

GRADE THREE

Questions are not available for release from the remaining Reporting Category, Computation and Estimation, which includes addition and subtraction with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals as well as multiplication and division with whole numbers.

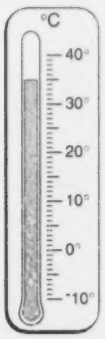
Questions 4, 5, and 6 are in the Reporting Category of Measurement and Geometry.

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

4 Which best names the shape of this can of peaches?

F Rectangle
G Sphere
H Cylinder
J Triangle

5

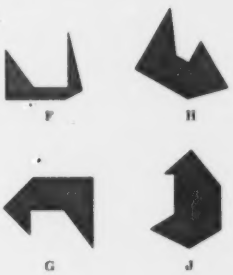


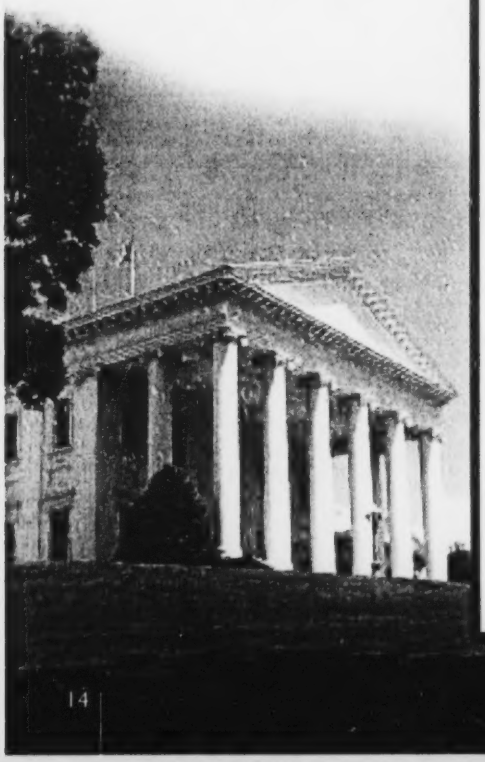
Which is closest to the temperature shown on this thermometer?

A 30°
B 31°
C 35°
D 39°

6

Which is the piece that was cut from this sheet?





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GRADE THREE

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MATHEMATICS TEST– *continued*

Question 7 is in the Reporting Category of Probability and Statistics. Question 8 is in the Reporting Category of Patterns, Functions, and Algebra.

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

7 The third-grade students at Larkfield Elementary School sold gift-wrapping paper to earn money for the school library. This bar graph shows how many rolls of each kind of paper they sold.

Which two kinds of paper sold a total of 60 rolls?

A Frogs and Bears
B Bears and Penguins
C Lizards and Frogs
D Lizards and Penguins

8 Carol made the table of numbers shown.

A	1	3	5	7
B	5	15	25	35

What did she do to the numbers in row A to get the numbers in row B?

F She added 4.
G She multiplied by 5.
H She added 2.
J She subtracted 10.

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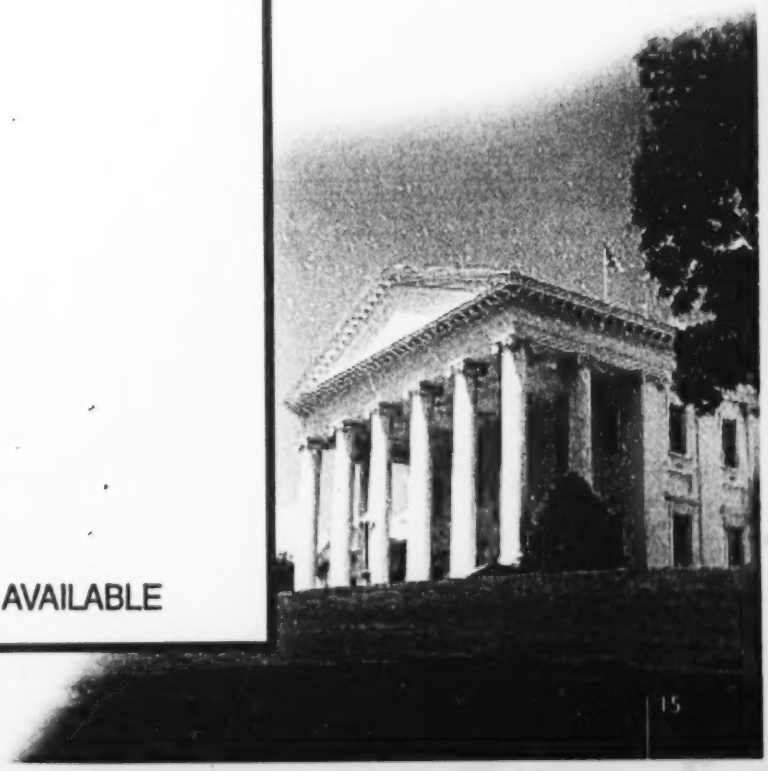

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HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE TEST

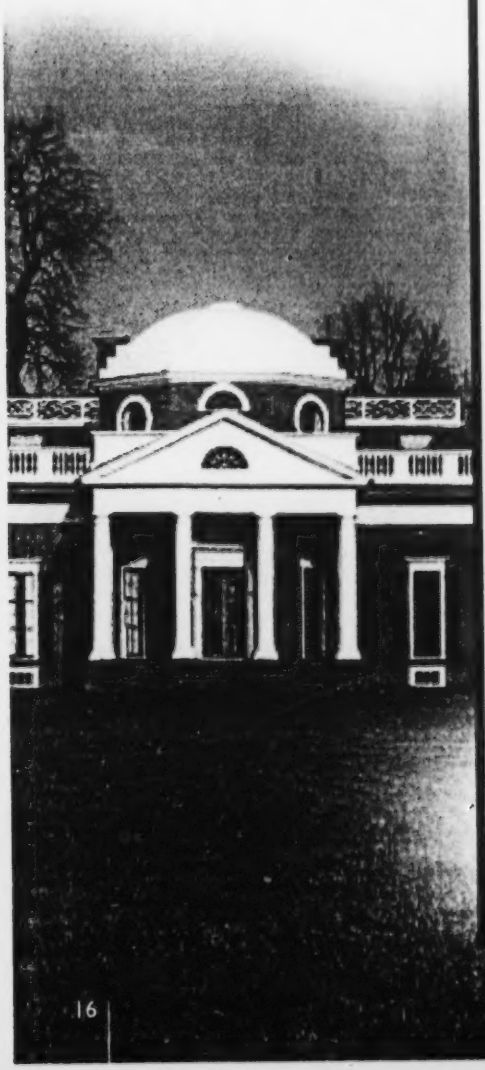
GRADE THREE

Students are asked questions that range from knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome to pre-colonial America to understanding citizens' responsibilities. The test measures the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3. Test questions are often presented with a map, graph, or chart, as in Questions 2 and 3.

The questions that appear below and on the next page are in these Reporting Categories:

- History *(question 1)*
- Geography *(questions 2 and 3)*
- Economics *(question 4)*
- Civics *(question 5)*

RELEASED ITEMS



1 What was the House of Burgesses?

A A council of American Indians in the Virginia colony
B A trading center near Jamestown
C The first school in Virginia
D The lawmaking body in the Virginia colony

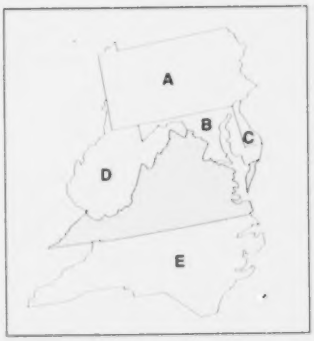
2 Characteristics of Some Regions

Region	Yearly Rainfall (in inches)	Daily Average Summer Temperatures	Number of People per Square Mile	Length of Growing Season (in months)
W	42	74° F	432	4
X	7	92° F	2	1
Y	4	95° F	4	6
Z	51	78° F	249	8

According to this table, Regions X and Y are most likely —

F rainforests
G islands
H deserts
J river valleys

3



Maryland is marked with the letter —

A A
B B
C C
D D

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HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE TEST– *continued*

Question 4 is in the Reporting Category of Economics. Question 5 is in the Reporting Category of Civics.

GRADE THREE

3

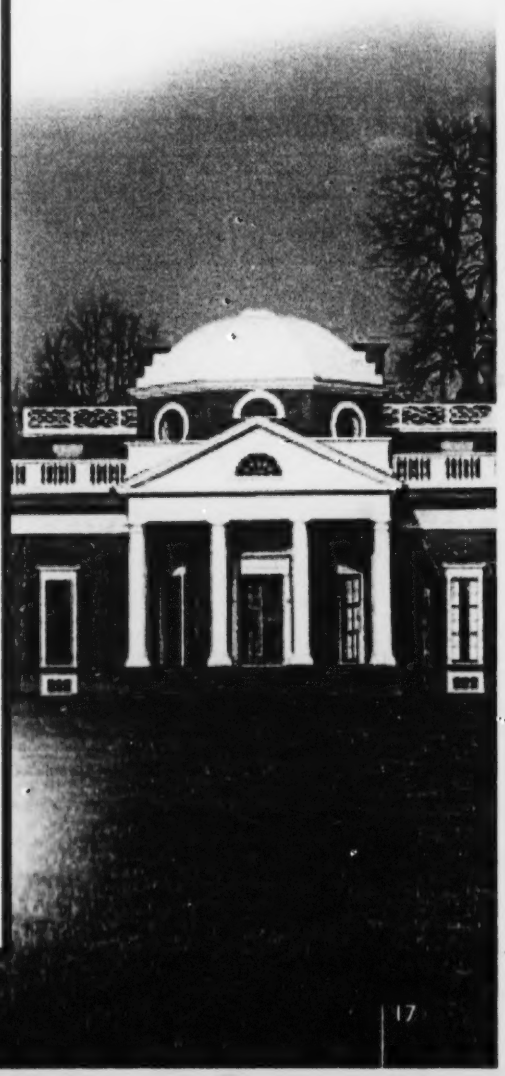
RELEASED ITEMS

4 **Mr. Polk wants to buy a television. Which way of payment will let him take the television home now, but pay for it later?**

F Barter
G Cash
H Check
J Credit

5 **Which statement best explains the main idea of the Declaration of Independence?**

A Government officials know what is best for citizens.
B People do not have to obey laws they do not like.
C All people are born free and have equal rights.
D People have only the freedoms that their rulers give them.



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SCIENCE TEST

GRADE THREE

The grade 3 Science test covers the Standards of Learning for kindergarten and grades 1, 2, and 3. Using text and visual information such as graphs, models, and illustrations, the questions on the grade 3 SOL Science test reflect what students learn in an active science program. Question 2, for example, is similar to work that students do when they collect, record, and report data. Other questions ask students to apply knowledge they have acquired in the classroom and/or use information that is in the question itself.

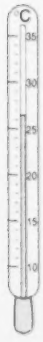
Students are permitted to use rulers on the grade 3 Science test.

The grade 3 Science questions that appear below and on the next page are in these Reporting Categories:

- Scientific Investigation *(questions 1 and 2)*
- Force, Motion, Energy, and Matter *(question 3)*
- Life Processes and Living Systems *(questions 4 and 5)*
- Earth/Space Systems and Cycles *(question 6)*

RELEASED ▼ ITEMS

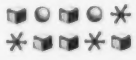
1



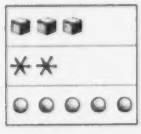
About what temperature is shown on this thermometer?

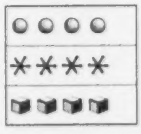
A 18° C
B 25° C
C 26° C
D 30° C

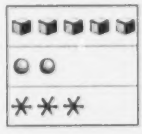
2

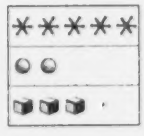


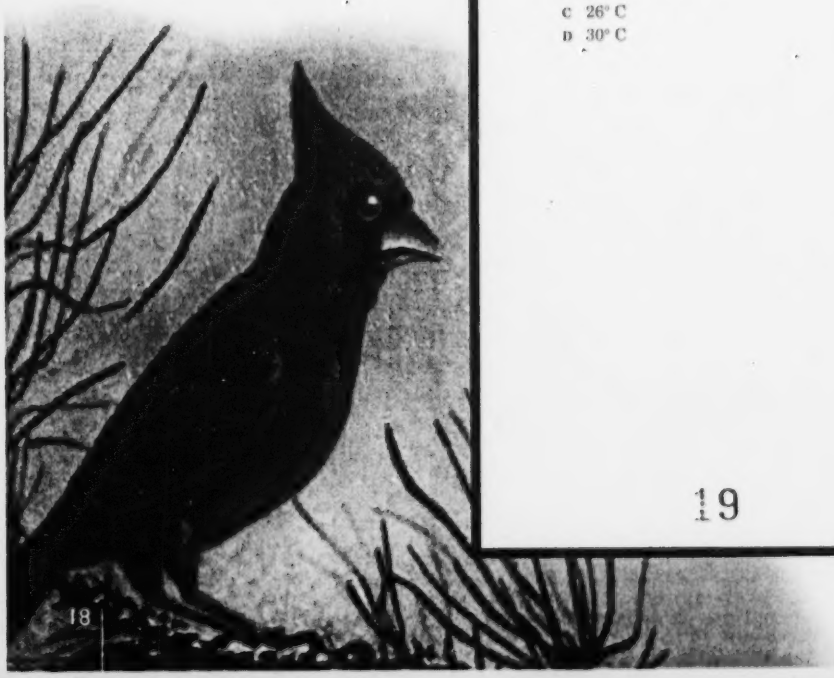
Which picture graph correctly shows the objects above?

F


G


H


J




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SCIENCE TEST– *continued*

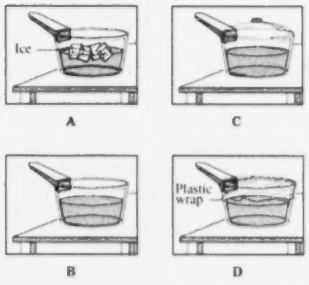
GRADE THREE

3

Question 3 is in the Reporting Category of Force, Motion, Energy, and Matter. Questions 4 and 5 are in the Reporting Category of Life Processes and Living Systems. Question 6 is in the Reporting Category of Earth/Space Systems and Cycles.

RELEASED ITEMS

3 In which pot will the water evaporate the fastest?



4 In order to live, an animal needs all of these except —

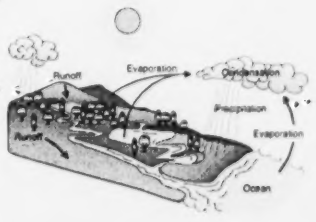
F water
G food
H air
J soil

5

Which of these shows the order of energy flow in this food chain?

A Grass → Antelope → Lion
B Lion → Grass → Antelope
C Antelope → Grass → Lion
D Grass → Lion → Antelope

6



How does water get from the ocean into the air?

F By evaporation
G By condensation
H By rainfall
J By precipitation

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Correct Answers

GRADE THREE

English Test: *Reading*

Page 7
1. C 2. J 3. D 4. G 5. A 6. H

English Test: *Writing*

Page 9
1. B

Page 11
2. H 3. D 4. G

Page 12
5. C 6. F

Mathematics Test

Page 13
1. B 2. G 3. C

Page 14
4. H 5. C 6. G

Page 15
7. D 8. G

History and Social Science Test

Page 16
1. D 2. H 3. B

Page 17
4. J 5. C

Science Test

Page 18
1. C 2. H

Page 19
3. B 4. J 5. A 6. F

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